

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



October 28, 2003

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO I-74-03

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
FOOD STAMP PROGRAM COORDINATORS

<u>REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Law Change
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Order or Settlement Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: DISASTER FOOD STAMP PROGRAM HANDBOOK UPDATE REFLECTING
INCREASED EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2003

This letter transmits revised reproducible pages from the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, "Disaster Food Stamp Program Handbook." Effective October 1, 2003 the shelter expense deduction was increased from \$367 to \$378 for all households. As a result of the increase in the shelter expense deduction, the disaster gross income limit for the income and resource test has also increased. These amounts cannot be applied to food stamp households with certification periods beginning prior to the above effective date. The revised pages replace documents found in the EXHIBITS section of the handbook as follows:

EXHIBIT A.

Page 2 of item titled "Disaster Food Stamps, Fact Sheet"

EXHIBIT E. Items titled:

- a) "Food Stamp Program October 1, 2003– September 30, 2004 Net Monthly Income Standards and Monthly Allotments and Deductions (now dated October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2003)
- b) "Eligibility/Verification Chart," page 1.

Food Stamp Program Coordinators will receive an extra copy of this letter for forwarding to their county's Food Stamp Program Disaster Coordinator. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Frederick Hodges of the Food Stamp Policy Bureau at (916) 653-7973.

Original signed by:**F. Patrick Sutherland For:**

RIGHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch

Attachments (3)

damage to a home or property necessary for work, temporary shelter expenses, expenses for moving out of an evacuated area, expenses related to protecting a home or business from the disaster, and expenses due to a disaster-related injury or death. The limits for household income and cash resource, minus disaster expenses, for a month are:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Food Stamp For a Month</u>
1	\$141
2	259
3	371
4	471
5	560
6	672
7	743
8	849

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income and Resources</u>
1	\$1,261
2	1,522
3	1,784
4	2,046
5	2,322
6	2,606
7	2,868
8	3,129

You will be asked to provide the social security number for household members if known.

RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS: If you are eligible, you should get food stamps within 3 days after you apply. You may get food stamps in one of several ways:

- the food stamp office may give or mail the food stamps directly to you,
- you may be given (or receive in the mail) a paper or card you can take to a bank or other place to get your food stamps, or
- you may be given a plastic card that you can use to buy food.

This varies by area. The amount of benefits a household gets depends on the number of people in the household.

Food stamps come in books worth different amounts. A household member should sign each coupon book.

USING FOOD STAMPS: You may use food stamps in any store that takes them. Most grocery stores take food stamps. You can only use food stamps to buy food or to buy seeds or plants for a garden to grow food for your own use. You cannot buy alcoholic drinks, tobacco, vitamins, toilet paper, or paper towels with food stamps. It is a very serious crime to sell your coupons for cash or drugs.

You must have the book cover to spend food stamps worth more than \$1. The store will give you change (in food stamps or up to \$1 in cash change) if you do not have the exact amount you need.

NONDISCRIMINATION: If you think you have not been treated fairly because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religious creed, or political beliefs, you should write to the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Rm. 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th & Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C.

Requirement	The Household	
Residency	<p>Must have been living in the disaster area at the time of the disaster.</p> <p>May be eligible if it is temporarily living outside of the disaster area but within the state at the time of the disaster.</p>	
Purchase Food	Must plan on purchasing food during the benefit period.	
Adverse Affect	<p>Must have experienced at least one of the following adverse effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of food, coupons or ATPs • damage to or destruction of the household's home or self-employment business (e.g., complete destruction, loss of roof or walls, destruction of heating equipment). • Disaster related (expenses not expected to be reimbursed during the benefit period (e.g., home/business protection, disaster related personal injury; including funeral expenses). • Loss or inaccessibility of income including reduction or termination of income or a delay in receipt of income for half the benefit period. • Inaccessible liquid resources (e.g., banks are closed). 	
Income and Resource test	<p>Total income received during the disaster benefit period, plus accessible liquid resources, minus certain disaster-related expenses shall not exceed the disaster gross income limit.</p>	
Household Size	Disaster Gross Income Limit ¹	Maximum Allotment
1	1,261	141
2	1,522	259
3	1,784	371
4	2,046	471
5	2,322	560
6	2,606	672
7	2,868	743
8	3,129	849
Each Additional Member	+262	+106

¹ These figures are effective October 1, 2003 and include all necessary calculations (e.g., calculation for 1 person household: maximum net monthly income = \$749; standard deduction = \$134; shelter deduction = \$378; 749 + 134 + 378 = 1261)

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM
 OCTOBER 1, 2003 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2004
California Monthly Income Eligibility Standards
Allotments and Deductions

Net Monthly Income Eligibility Standards (100% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Net Income
1	\$ 749
2	1,010
3	1,272
4	1,534
5	1,795
6	2,057
7	2,319
8	2,580
Each Additional Member	+262

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards (130% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$ 973
2	1,313
3	1,654
4	1,994
5	2,334
6	2,674
7	3,014
8	3,354
Each Additional Member	+341

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards For Households Where Elderly Disabled Are A Separate Household (165% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,235
2	1,667
3	2,099
4	2,530
5	2,962
6	3,394
7	3,826
8	4,257
Each Additional Member	+432

Maximum Food Stamp Allotments

Household Size	Allotment
1	\$141
2	259
3	371
4	471
5	560
6	672
7	743
8	849
Each Additional Member	+106

DEDUCTIONS

Standard Deduction- HH 1-4	\$134
HH 5	\$149
HH 6 or more	\$171
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance	\$143

Shelter Deduction \$378

SUA \$227